

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02863 01 OF 02 181515Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----181610Z 123661 /53

R 181403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8032
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 2863
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, SO, ET, US
SUBJECT: U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIAN POLICIES TOWARD SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 78514, (B) STATE 85332

1. ON APRIL 14 AND 17, I DISCUSSED WITH PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE
SAUD U.S. POLICIES TOWARD SOMALIA AND TO A MINOR EXTENT OUR POLICY
TOWARD ETHIOPIA AS REFLECTED IN REFTELS.

2. SAUD SAID HIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE DEPT'S
SUGGESTION THAT WE COORDINATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OUR POLICIES
AND ACTIONS CONCERNING SOMALIA. HE SAID THAT DURING THIS VISIT TO
MOGADISCIO HE WAS INFORMED THAT SOMALIS DESIRE CONTINUING
CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE IS QUITE
CERTAIN IN HIS OWN MIND THAT GOS IS READY FOR A MAJOR REORIENT-
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 02863 01 OF 02 181515Z

TATION OF THEIR BASIC OUTLOOK AS FAR AS THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
UNITED STATES ARE CONCERNED. THE DIFFICULTY IN THE PAST WITH THE
U.S., SIAD BARRE TOLD HIM, AROSE FROM THE PROBLEM OF U.S.
SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA, BOTH FINANCIAL AND IN THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT,
WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS AGAINST SOMALIA.
SAUD WAS TOLD BY SIAD BARRE THAT SOMALIS ARE NOT COMMUNIST-
ORIENTED. THEY DECLARED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON, THAT

THEY ARE ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO ARAB NATIONALIST, NOT COMMUNIST, AIMS.

3. IT IS WRONG, PRINCE SAUD WAS INFORMED, TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE SPECIAL FACILITIES IN SOMALIA. THE GOS WAS PREPARED TO ACCORD TO THE UNITED STATES THE SAME FACILITIES. HERE SAUD SAID HE TOLD THEM THAT IT COULD NOT BE MATTER OF SOME FACILITIES FOR SOVIET USE, AND OTHERS FOR UNITED STATES. FROM SAUDI VIEW-POINT IT HAD TO BE NO FACILITIES AT ALL FOR THE USSR IN SOMALIA. SAUD DID NOT STATE SOMALI REACTION BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOMALI GOVT SEEMS ENTIRELY READY TO COOPERATE IN EVERY IMPORTANT RESPECT.

4. I SAID WE HAD SENSED A FEELING AMONG ARAB DIPLOMATS IN MOGADISCIO THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SAUDIS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THEIR REPRESENTATION TO THAT OF AMBASSADOR. HE REPLIED THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GOS AND SAUDIS AGREED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION HE SAID DJIBOUTI WAS DISCUSSED ALSO. THE SOMALIS SEEM QUITE READY TO ACCEPT AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI, BUT THEY FEEL THAT AS SOON AS ETHIOPIA IS STABILIZED THE GOE WILL MOUNT AN ATTACK AGAINST THE NEW STATE. ETHIOPIA IS CURRENTLY SENDING MONEY AND WEAPONS INTO THE TERRITORY. SIAD BARRE ASSURED SAUD THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF ELECTIONS IN DJIBOUTI PROVIDED THEY WERE CARRIED OUT ON BASIS OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE AND NOT ON BASIS OF TRIBAL INSTITUTIONS. LATTER ARRANGEMENT COULD BE USED BY ANY SIDE IN FUTURE TO AGITATE ISSUES AND IN GOS OPINION WOULD BE UNWISE METHOD.

6. I BROUGHT UP MATTER OF AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN'S PROSPECTIVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 02863 01 OF 02 181515Z

RETURN TO MOGADISCIO ON OR ABOUT APRIL 21. SAUD AFFIRMED HIS BELIEF SOMALIS ARE IN PROPER MOOD TO HAVE USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH UNITED STATES AND HE URGED THAT AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN BE "POSITIVE" WITH REGARD TO AID MATTERS. HE SHOULD NOT MENTION SAUDI ARABIA.

7. SAUDI ARABIA IS READY TO OPEN FULL EXCHANGE WITH US IN NEAR FUTURE DURING WHICH THEY WILL SET FORTH THEIR OWN PLANS AND ESTIMATES OF THE AID REQUIRED AND CONTRIBUTION THEY WILL MAKE. THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT IN MIND, SAUD ASSURED ME. HE COMMENTED ON OBVIOUS POVERTY OF SOMALIA. HE SUGGESTED DEPT. SEND HERE ONE OR TWO KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICERS EARLY IN MAY TO SIT WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS AND GO OVER ENTIRE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS. IF DESIRABLE, TALKS ON SUBJECT CAN BE CARRIED ON DURING PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

NOTE BY OCT: MSG RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02863 02 OF 02 181520Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----181612Z 123729 /53

R 181403Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8033
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 2863
EXDIS

8. FINALLY HE EVINced SOME INTEREST IN OUR ETHIOPIAN PROGRAM.
I INFORMED HIM ALONG LINES APPROVED IN REFTel B. HE COMMENTED
THAT SIAD BARRE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT MENGISTU IS THE PRINCIPAL
SOVIET INSTRUMENT AMONG THE ETHIOPIANS, AND THAT AS SOON AS
ETHIOPIAN UNREST IS DEALT WITH THERE WILL BE EFFORT TO FOMENT
TROUBLE IN KENYA, SUDAN AND SOMALIA.

9. COMMENT: RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SAUD'S
SUGGESTION AND PROPOSE EARLY MAY DATE IF IT PRACTICAL TO SEND ONE OR
TWO OFFICERS ABOUT THAT TIME. IT WAS QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT
HE WANTS US TO BE "POSITIVE" (AS IN THE MATTER OF AMB. LOUGHRAN'S
RETURN TO MOGADISCIO) IN SUCH TALKS. I WOULD SUGGEST OFFICERS
AT COUNTRY DIRECTORATE AND DESK LEVELS. SAUDIS NO DOUBT HAVE IN
MIND NOT ONLY EXAMINATION OF RESOURCES THEY AND WE ARE PREPARED
TO COMMIT, BUT ALSO NATURE OF AID PROGRAMS WE AND THEY SHOULD
PROVIDE. (I REMINDED HIM THAT SOME FORMS OF AID ARE EASIER
THAN OTHERS AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02863 02 OF 02 181520Z

10. SAG WILL CAREFULLY NOTE OUR RESPONSE TO PRINCE SAUD'S

INITIATIVE. THEY MAY CONSIDER IT A FORETOKEN OF OUR ABILITY TO
COOPERATE WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON MATTERS OF COMMON BENEFIT.
SAUD HIMSELF WILL BE INTERESTED IN OUR REPLY BECAUSE -- AS HE
SEES IT -- THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT HE HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE
TO GET THE RUSSIANS OUT OF SOMALIA WITH OUR HELP. HE BELIEVES
THE SAG FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL IN 1975 BECAUSE
THE USG HAD NEVER BEEN REALLY COMMITTED TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
PORTER

NOTE BY OCT: MSG RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA02863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0201
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770447/aaaabpab.tel
Line Count: 180
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6783aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 78514, 77 STATE 85332
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2777927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIAN POLICIES TOWARD SOMALIA
TAGS: PFOR, SA, SO, ET, US, (SAUD, PRINCE), (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6783aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009